

Chiemeka Maria Utazi, also known as Fada Chichi or Fr. Chichi, is a Nigerian Catholic priest and member of the Salesians of Don Bosco, (SDB). The Salesians of Don Bosco are a Catholic religious congregation founded in 1859 by Saint John Bosco, dedicated to education and pastoral work of the young people, especially, those who are poorer.

Chiemeka Maria Utazi was born in Amunu Village of Ugbene-Ajima town, Uzo-Uwani LGA, Enugu State, Nigeria. He is known for his mild disposition, social and cheerful humour, and a balanced temperament, reflecting a personality capable of attachment and moderation in all passions, including his love for literature.

Chiemeka Maria Utazi had a BA in Philosophy and Youth Studies from Don Bosco College, Moshi, an affiliate of The Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), from 2003 to 2006. While in Tanzania, he worked with the young people of Moshi, Arush, Shinyanga and Dar es Salam. He then proceeded to Sunyani, Ghana, where he worked for two years teaching and directing the young to better lives, at Don Bosco Technical School, Odumase. Here, he worked tirelessly with the young people of Ghana, uplifting the poorest of the poor and enhancing both the physical and intellectual energy of the young. He was engaged in education and pastoral work with most of the youths of Sunyani and beyond. In 2007, he proceeded to Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo, where he batched a Bachelor of Science in Education (B.Sc.Ed.) in Physics, from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, in 2012. While he was studying, he taught physics at the Sacred Heart Minor Seminary, Akure between 2010 and 2011. He went back to work in Ghana, but this time, in Ashaiman, Accra continuing the pastoral work in education empowering the young. He did this before proceeding to Nairobi, Kenya where he engaged in theological studies. He studied theology at Salesian Theological College, Nairobi, Kenya, an affiliate of The Università Pontificia Salesiana, Rome between 2012 and 2016. While he was both in Tanzania and Kenya, he was very actively involved, travelling far and wide different parts of these countries and engaging in serious youth ministry works.

Fr. Chiemeka was ordained a Catholic priest into the Salesian Congregation at the Holy Trinity Basilica, Onitsha on July 9, 2016, by His Grace Most Reverend Valerian Maduka Okeke, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Onitsha in Nigeria. He served as Assistant Parish Priest and Youth Director at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, Odumase, Sunyani Diocese, Ghana, where he supported youth programs from 2016 to 2018. Since after his priestly ordination, he has been actively involved in pastoral ministry and educational initiatives especially with the young people of both Ghana and Nigeria, supporting both spiritual and academic development of the young within several communities. He taught at John Bosco Institute of Technology (JOBITECH), Ondo from 2018 to 2022, since teaching is one of his hobbies.

Currently, Chiemeka Maria Utazi, is working as the Director of Don Bosco Health and Diagnostic Centre, Akure, where he is dedicated to improving the living standards of people and focusing on catering to various medical care needs, health education and prevention programs. Through various outreach programs, workshops, and community health campaigns, Fr. Chiemeka has promoted awareness about important health issues, such as vaccination, sanitation, and nutrition., and sometimes offers free malaria and typhoid tests and treatment, when and where needed. He runs health awareness campaigns with the Catholic Diocese of Ondo and beyond its surroundings. He is also very committed to compassionate care for the local community

Fr. Chichi maintains a public presence through platforms such as YouTube, Facebook and Instagram, where he shares religious teachings, reflections, and educational content, further extending his pastoral outreach. His work emphasizes the integration of faith, education, and community engagement, consistent with the Salesian mission of nurturing young people and promoting holistic development.

Overall, Chiemeka Maria Utazi is recognized for his dedication to pastoral theology, education, and community service, combining his spiritual vocation with a commitment to social and intellectual growth in his local and broader communities in different parts of Africa.